Dear Jim,

12/4/75

Your late-night suggestion that I get a Times assurance that the story will be in the form of an interview is excellent. I should have throught of it and didn't.

After little sleep I drafted the letter to Levi. This may or may not be done before the mailman comes but it is ready to go-certified, addressee only.

Then, still early, I got Ho up. He hasn't left yet. I told him all I want is assurances along the line of your suggestion and that the Times can satisfy itself in advance on the value of the story. He wanted it to await his return. I said II'd await his return to do the story but wanted assurances now or I'd go ahead with a press conference because the CBS angle leaves no choice is there is no assurance. I proposed that the Times send someone to see this today. He asked me to give him until 12:30 and I agreed.

If there is no assurance I think we should plan a press conference, if not for tomorrow, which we can discuss by phone, then for Monday. I'll want you to make some xeroxes, easier for you, if there is a press conference, of Francisco material and I'll need some of this new stuff.

When you get up in an hour or so you'll in time come to the newest exemplification of the best in Southern manners and expressions of appreciation. Under the existing emotional problems I'm rather surprsied at what our courtly friend probably considers restraint and kindness.

I expect not to be questioned about this but if I am to make no meaningful comment. Or to write him. A career of saving his ass is more than enough.

There were some quotes that are selected rather injudiciously as are a few of the Post's comments but for them it is good. The books are not "unsold" as he saw them. They awaited shipment. The purpose of my work at the conclusion is bob-tailed with what was omitted changing the sense. By 9:30, not quite, no calls from friends so it hasn't attracted much attention. Yet, anyway. Peterson was good to work out the way he did of giving my address. The picture was staged by the photog, not me.

We'll be talking later. Check enclosed for expenses. Best,